

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057361
ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057361

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR

SUBJECT: POLICY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REVIEW (PARM)

REF: STATE 45461 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPT SEES NO MAJOR ISSUES IN CURRENT RELATIONS WITH
GOTT. OUR LONG-TERM INTERESTS IN TRINIDAD, AS STATED
IN LAST YEAR'S CASP, REMAIN VALID. HOWEVER, SUCH
INTERESTS MAY FACE NEW CHALLENGES BECAUSE OF RESULTS OF
1976 ELECTIONS WHICH BROUGHT TO THE FOREFRONT AN AGGRES-
SIVE AND IDEOLOGICALLY ORIENTED OPPOSITION GROUP (ULF).
IN ADDITION, WILLIAMS' ERA MAY BE APPROACHING ITS END.
THUS THE DEPT FEELS THAT THE PARM SHOULD ADDRESS FOLLOW-
ING TWO QUESTIONS:

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(A) HOW MUCH LONGER IS WILLIAMS LIKELY TO REMAIN IN
POWER? IS HE LIKELY TO STEP DOWN BEFORE 1981?

(B) IF WILLIAMS LEAVES THE SCENE IN THE PARM TIME
FRAME, WHO ARE HIS MOST LIKELY SUCCESSORS?

2. ASSUMING THAT POLITICAL STABILITY AND MODERATION

CONTINUE IN TRINIDAD, PARM SHOULD ADDRESS ITSELF TO QUESTION OF WHAT ROLE WE THINK TRINIDAD WILL PLAY IN

THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN, WHAT ROLE WE WOULD LIKE TRINIDAD TO PLAY, AND WHETHER TRINIDAD CAN ACT TO COUNTER RADICAL TRENDS NOW EVIDENT IN THE AREA.

3. IN VIEW OF CONTINUING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN TRINIDAD WHICH COULD LEAD TO SOCIAL UNREST, IS THE TRINIDADIAN GOVT TAKING EFFECTIVE STEPS TO REDUCE IT BY INVESTING ITS OIL REVENUES? IF NOT, WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE GOTT PROGRAMS? CAN THE USG PLAY A ROLE?

4. THE GOTT HAS INDICATED THAT IT PLANS MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN TRINIDAD. SINCE SUCH DEVELOPMENT SHOULD CREATE ATTRACTIVE MARKETS FOR U.S. INVESTMENTS AND EXPORTS, PARM SHOULD ADDRESS BEST AVENUES FOR EXPLORING THIS POTENTIAL MARKET.

5. BEGINNING IN APRIL, WE SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PROCEED WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE EXTENSION OF OMEGA STATION. WHILE THIS IS NOT NOW A POLICY ISSUE, IT MIGHT BECOME SO SHOULD THE QUID PRO QUO ASKED BY THE GOTT BE TOO HIGH. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE ON GOTT POSITION AND RECOMMENDED U.S. NEGOTIATING TACTICS. SPECIFICALLY, WHAT INCENTIVES ARE LIKELY TO BE MOST APPEALING TO GOTT, AND WHAT LEVERS COULD BE USED TO MOVE THEM TOWARD AGREEMENT?
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